



Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
District of North Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2010
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CONTACT: BETH LANG
PHONE: (701) 530-2420
FAX: (701) 530-2421

Former Minot Air Force Man Sentenced for Child Pornography

BISMARCK - Acting United States Attorney Lynn Jordheim announced that on February 22, 2010, **Michael L. Taylor**, 26, formerly of Minot AFB, North Dakota, was sentenced before United States District Court Judge Daniel L. Hovland on a charge of Possession of Material Involving the Sexual Exploitation of Minors. Taylor pleaded guilty to the charge on November 23, 2009.

Judge Hovland sentenced Taylor to serve eight years and one month in federal prison, to be followed by fifteen years of supervised release. Taylor was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund and must register as a sex offender following his prison term.

Taylor was discovered to be in possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors in May 2008, by agents of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, while they were conducting an online investigation for individuals making this type material available to others via the internet. Taylor's computer was discovered to have approximately 61 files depicting the sexual exploitation of minors in a shared folder made available to others. A further search of Taylor's computer indicated that he possessed in excess of 10,000 images and videos of similar material.

The case was investigated by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Gary Delorme prosecuted the case.

This case was brought as a part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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